

HISTORY
OF
OLMSTED COUNTY
MINNESOTA

WRITTEN BY
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TOGETHER WITH
Sketches of Many of its Pioneers, Citizens,
Families and Institutions

ILLUSTRATED

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without territorial organization. Later it became a part of the Territory of Michigan and then of the Territory of Wisconsin, and still later, of the Territory of Iowa.

March 3, 1849, the Territory of Minnesota was created, with the boundaries now those of the state.

Prior to the white occupancy the Indian title to this portion of the new land, if the kind of eminent domain that they exercised may be dignified as a title, was in the Wapasha, or Red Wing band of Sioux or Dakotas. Their principal villages were on the Mississippi, at or near the present sites of Red Wing, Wabasha, Winona and La Crosse, and this far west would seem to have been only a hunting ground.

For the first few years after the arrival of white settlers occasional small parties of Indians would camp for a few days in this vicinity on their way to or from the Mississippi, and as late as 1862 a party stayed a couple of days near the court house in Rochester. They were always peaceable, never disturbing the settlers except by their demands for something to satisfy their ever hungry appetites. It is narrated in *Eaton's History* as told by Esquire Bucklen, that about two hundred camped about six weeks in the early winter of 1854, on the river bottom near the mill in North Rochester, and lost four of their number by sickness, in consequence of which they changed their camp, abandoning a sick girl who was rescued from starvation and cared for by Mr. Bucklen's family till taken back by her tribe.

The only vestige within the county of occupancy by the noble and dirty aboriginies that I have known of was a small burying ground on a beautiful and sightly point of bluff on the north edge of Rochester on the now farm of Carl L. Schultz, near the Donahue quarry and the Cascade mill. On the crest of the bluff four or five graves were ranged. The bodies had been laid on the rocky surface, and a roof of shakes protected each one, but time, and perhaps white people, had desecrated the graves, and bones and beads could be seen through the crumbled sides. The graves were there as late as 1862, but now the rocks are bare and the graves gone; swept away, it is thought, in the cyclone of 1883. So passed away the Indian occupancy.

A few evidences of the existence of the pre-historic man, that conjectural individual of whom so much has been written and so little known, have been found in the picking up of implements and utensils of copper and stone in different localities of the county. John W. Peck, agent at Rochester of the Laird Norton Lumber Company, a diligent collector of curiosities, has in his collection some rare Olmsted county specimens: A copper spear head seven inches long and very well finished, found in the garden of J. Durham Fuller in Rochester; a copper spear head found on the Thomas